

19 17.7327
ILLI
1987
c.3

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

AUG 11 1987

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

Illini

STATE PARK



CONSERVATION

THE PARK

Illini State Park, across the Illinois River from Marseilles near Rt. 6, is a family recreational area. The 510-acre park is in a section of the Illinois River called the Great Falls, due to the land's dropping three feet in two miles.

Illini entered the state park system in 1934 and was dedicated in 1935. It was maintained by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. Some of the park shelters were constructed during this period.

HISTORY

The park is on an old glacial feature called the Marseilles Moraine and is underlaid by coal about 100 feet deep. There was a large coal mine one mile south of the park until World War II.

The Illinois River flows past the entire length of the park's north boundary. The river's rapids were bypassed by the Corp of Engineers Barge Canal, begun in the mid-1920's by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The canal is on the Illini State Park property and visitors can watch large barges passing through the Marseilles Lock.

The Illinois-Michigan Canal formerly carried the commerce of the area. The Marseilles-to-Morris section was the last completed, in 1848, and the waterway was reportedly the greatest engineering feat of its time. the historic Illinois-Michigan Canal is less than one mile from the park.

The park is within on the area of the former Marasottawa Country Club, which was organized by the late W.D. Boyce, founder of the Boy Scouts and a resident of nearby Ottawa.

NATURAL SCENE

A variety of trees are found in the park, such as hickory, ash, walnut, autumn olive, hackberry, oak, elm, cherry, cottonwood and sycamore. Flowers bloom throughout the park in spring. Wildlife seen throughout the area include beavers, whitetail deer, squirrels, ground hogs, mallard ducks, geese, raccoons, foxes and songbirds.

FACILITIES

Picnicking — There are several picnic areas scattered throughout the park near the river. Tables, outdoor stoves, drinking water, toilets and playground equipment are available. Shelters with fireplaces are also provided.

Camping — In addition to tent camping, the park offers trailer sites with electricity and sanitary facilities. Campers must obtain a camping permit from the park's personnel before entering the campground. Youth group camping is available; groups of over 25 persons need advance permission to enter the park.



Boating and Fishing — A boat ramp is available but boats are not for rent. There is no motor limit on the Illinois River. The river can be fished for crappie, bullhead, carp and catfish. LaSalle Lake Fish and Wildlife Area is located 8.3 miles south of Illini State Park.

Trails — There are three trails within the park; the ½ mile Marasottawa interpretive trail, the two mile White Tail Run hiking-ski trail and the 6/10 mile Chassogoac Hiking Trail.

Please — Help keep this park clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. Put all liter in the nearest trash container.

Other — A baseball diamond is available and winter sledging is popular. Open fields are often used to fly kites and model airplanes. All vehicles must stay on roads. Mini-bikes, snowmobiles and horses are prohibited.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only, and Black Hawk has dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year-round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Illini State Park, R.R. 1, Box 4, Marseilles, Illinois 61341, phone 815/795-2448. For more information on other Illinois recreation areas, write the Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.



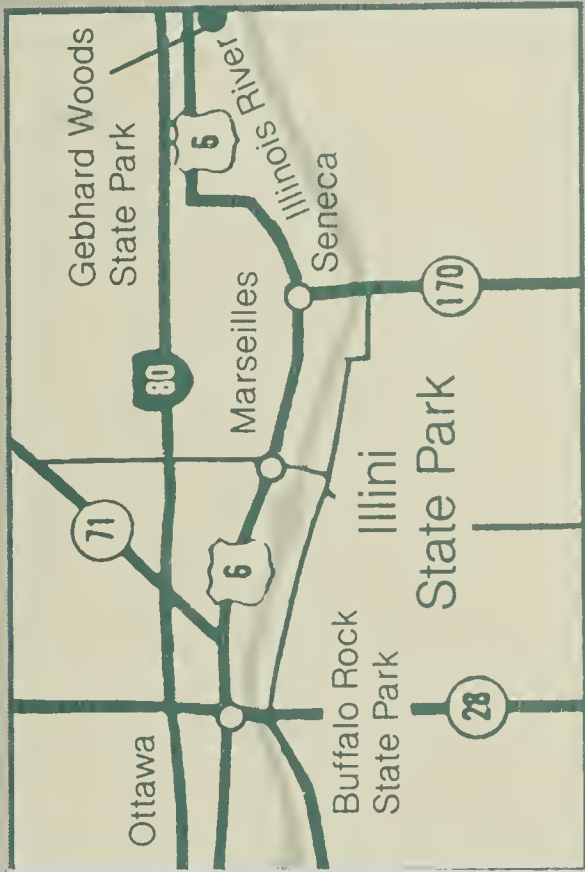
1917.7327
ILLI
1997
C.3

16928720

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 122557298



ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY



5 1129 00455 6403



Park Map